

29 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Helms

The ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT this morning, 29 July, carried the following editorial.

TUT TUT SENATORS

With the problems of Vietnam warfare escalating, inflation, an air line strike, foreign aid slashes and, of course, election year politics pressing upon members of the U.S. Senate, it seems that they could find better use for their time than crackling out a rubarb because CIA Director Richard Helms wrote a letter commenting on an editorial in the GLOBE-DEMOCRAT.

The editorial praised the CIA for its accomplishment and noted a Senate proposal rebuke Chairman Fulbright of the Foreign Relations Committee for asking, as Sen. Russell has stated to muscle into supervision of CIA long maintained by a special committee of Mr. Russell's Armed Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

The Senate vote routed the Fulbright ploy with a whopping 61-28 vote which by any yardstick seems like a crushing rebuke. Why would not Mr. Helms feel bouyed up by the Senate ballot and by our editorial approving it?

We print letters from Cabinet Ministers, Senators and other high officials. Do Senators think the CIA Director should exist in a public vacuum and not enjoy any rights of the speech they so forthrightly and fulsomely use. He was not divulging or discussing intelligence matters.

It has been a long hot summer on Capitol Hill and the Senators would like to get into the campaign trails, and maybe this accounts for the tea pot tempestuousness over a minor incident that should not have rippled the greatest deliberative body on earth.